



How a 'White Tree' Led to the Trial of Six Black Youth **Racism & Resistance in Louisiana**



MICHAEL DAVID MURPHY, MICHAELDAVIDMURPHY.COM (ABOVE); MAVIS YORKS (TOP THREE PHOTOS)

Black students at a Jena, Louisiana, high school were threatened for sitting under a tree reserved for white students. Top, families and supporters of the Jena Six students held a rally in July.

WHAT HAPPENED

September 2006

A black student asks to sit under a tree where white students usually sit. The administration tells the black students to sit wherever they like. The next day, three ropes tied into nooses are found hanging from the tree. Nooses often represent lynching or when black people have been hanged and murdered. The white students who hung the ropes are suspended for three days.

December 2006

Six black students are arrested after a school fight in which a white student is beaten.

July 2007

One of the black students in the fight, Mychal Bell, 17, is convicted by an all-white jury of aggravated battery (beating) and conspiracy. His tennis shoes are considered "dangerous weapons." Bell may get twenty-two years in prison.

August 2007

The Congressional Black Caucus of the U.S. Congress calls for the charges to be dropped. More than 60,000 signatures are collected asking Louisiana's governor to pardon the Jena Six.

Fall 2007

The cases of the five other students are scheduled to be heard in court.

By Jordan Flaherty

A year ago, in the small northern Louisiana town of Jena, a group of white students hung three nooses (ropes tied in a loop) from a tree in front of Jena High School. Now six black students who spoke up against racism are facing a lifetime in prison.

The nooses were hung after a black student asked permission to sit under a tree that had been reserved by tradition for white students only. In response to the nooses, nearly every black student in the school stood under the tree in an act of protest. The town's district attorney quickly arrived, along with police officers, and spoke in a school assembly. Like the schoolyard, the assembly was also divided by race, with the black students on one side and the white students on the other. District Attorney Reed Walters told the black students to stop making trouble. "I can make your lives dis-

appear with a stroke of a pen," he said.

The white students who confessed to hanging the nooses were suspended from school for three days. Then, when white students beat up a black student, one of the white students was put on probation. When a white former student threatened two black students with a shotgun, he received no punishment. But, after these events, when black students got into a fight with a white student, six black youths were charged with attempted murder and now may face a lifetime in prison. The white student was hospitalized for a short time after the fight and was socializing with friends later that evening.

One of the Jena Six students, Bryant Purvis, said, "I think the district attorney is pinning it on us to make an example of us. In Jena, people get accused of things they didn't do a lot." People from around the world have heard about the case and have joined to support the call to "Free the Jena Six!"

KYRGYZSTAN QUICK FACTS

Location: Central Asia • **Capital:** Bishkek • **Official languages:** Kyrgyz, Russian • **Population:** 5 million • **Religion:** 75% Muslim; 20% Russian Orthodox Christian • **President:** Kurmanbek Bakiyev
Exports: Cotton, wool, meat, tobacco, gold, mercury • **Poverty:** 40% of the population • **Brief history:** Kyrgyzstan was formally incorporated into Russia in 1876 and became independent in 1991

MEET ARNALI FROM KYRGYZSTAN

Name: Arnali Subankulov, age 12 **Languages:** Kyrgyz and Russian

Religion: Muslim **Favorite subject in school:** Math

Career: Arnali wants to be a businessman when he grows up.

Favorite food: *Plov*, a traditional Uzbek dish, made with rice and small pieces of beef.

Family: Arnali has an older sister and an older brother. His father owns a shooting arcade where Arnali works during the summer. His mother works in commerce in Russia.

Hobbies: Playing soccer and computer games and watching cowboy movies and historical films.

—THE COMMON LANGUAGE PROJECT



Learn a little Kyrgyz!

Hello: Salam

Peace be with you: Salam aleykum

Yes: Ooba

No: Jok

Friend: Dos

Thank you: Rakhmat

Bread: Nan

Tea: Chay

Rice: Kürüch

The Pressure's on Coca-Cola

By Ian Werkheiser

Coca-Cola is a giant international corporation with employees all over the world. In Colombia, South America, workers at the Coca-Cola bottling plants organized a union to help improve their working conditions. But the Coca-Cola company doesn't want its workers to have a union.

In 1996, a manager of the bottling plants announced that he would have paramilitary forces attack the union. Shortly after, paramilitaries killed one of the union leaders, Isidro Gil. Since then, three other union leaders at Coca-Cola bottling plants in Colombia have also been killed, and many other workers have been attacked and intimidated.

Since Coca-Cola is known around the world, the company can be influenced by consumers in many places. There is an international effort to push Coca-Cola to stop attacking the workers' union.

Ray Rogers, the founder of the Campaign to Stop Killer Coke said, "It's going to cost Coke a lot more than they have to gain if they don't clean up the situation."

The campaign is seeing an effect. In July the TIAA-CREF investment company decided to



EROS HOAGLAND

Ties to paramilitary groups in Colombia have led to a campaign against Coca-Cola.

drop Coca-Cola from its Social Choice Account. This is a fund that tries to invest in companies that are considered socially responsible and that do not make things like weapons, alcohol or tobacco. Now Coca-Cola is included on this list of irresponsible companies.

Thousands of miles away the union activists in Colombia are thanking activists in other countries. Says William Mendoza, one of the union organizers, "We are glad you are with us."

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For more information, go to www.killercoke.org



Government Decides Which Kids Get Healthcare

By Sheba Sethi

Forty-seven million Americans do not have health insurance, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's yearly report. That's more than one out of every six people in the country. In 2006, the number of uninsured people went up by 2.2 million, with 600,000 of them children. If President Bush follows through with his threats about restrictions on eligibility and funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), the number of uninsured people will increase yet again.

SCHIP was started in 1997 to provide lower-income families with health insurance for their children. Early in August, Congress passed a bill expanding the program. Both the Senate and the House agreed that the program should continue and get extra money. The House proposed \$50 billion and the Senate proposed \$35 billion. But President Bush wants to give only \$5 billion, and he made new restrictions about who can be in the program.

The president has vowed to veto any bill that gives more money than he wants to the program because his advisers say it will make more people dependent on welfare.

INSURANCE

People with health insurance pay a fee to make sure they can see a doctor if they get sick. Many people who can't afford that fee are faced with big doctors' bills when they do get sick.

indykids

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. *IndyKids* is funded through donations and grants.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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 New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
 New York Public Library: www.nypl.org
 Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
 Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact *IndyKids!* Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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• Dave Baker
 • Mona Sehgal & Jacob Levich
 • Marj & Larry Long
 • Neal Stone
 • Xavier Tayo

Congress Says It's OK for the Government to Spy on Us



No Court Order Required Now

By Chris Anderson

Congress gave President Bush a victory on August 4 when it voted into law many controversial government spying activities. Now it will be legal for the government to spy on people's phone and e-mail conversations without first getting a warrant (permission) from a court.

Under the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), the government has to get special permission from a court to spy on U.S. citizens. The FISA law was created to protect people's privacy after it was discovered that the government had been spying on U.S. citizens for a long time. With the new law passed in August, the government no longer has to get special

permission.

The Bush administration had been spying on U.S. citizens illegally for six years. Law professor and National Lawyers Guild President Marjorie Cohn told news program *Democracy Now!*, "They [Congress] have not only legalized what Bush was doing before, but I think it's highly unlikely that the Bush administration officials will be brought to justice for the felonies that they have been committing since 2001."

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that people have the right to be protected from "unreasonable searches and seizures" and that the government must give a reason and get permission before searching someone. But Bush and other supporters of the new law say that it is needed to "keep America safe."

ILLUSTRATION: GARY MARTIN



Attorney General Gonzales Quits After Lots of Political Scandals

By Amanda Vender

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales resigned in late August after months of people calling for him to leave office. The attorney general is the top law enforcement officer in the United States and head of the Justice Department. Gonzales was in the middle of several scandals and investigations including the firing of nine U.S. attorneys and secret government spying on U.S. citizens. Gonzales is also known for approving U.S. soldiers' use of torture against prisoners in Iraq and for supporting the controversial U.S. detention center in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He has been a legal adviser and friend to President Bush for a long time.

In July, Gonzales answered questions before Congress about the investigation into the firing of the U.S. attorneys. He did not give straight answers to questions about the U.S. military's use of torture against prisoners (see photo at left), and he said he could not remember many facts about the firing of the U.S. attorneys.

“Until we get rid of the entire cabal [group], which includes Bush and Cheney, ... there is little to celebrate in Gonzales' resignation.”

While many were happy that Gonzales resigned, civil and human rights advocates showed concern that the policies Gonzales started and supported still exist. Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, said, "Until we get rid of the entire cabal [group], which includes Bush and Cheney, that has engaged in torture, offshore prisons such as Guantánamo, violations of the Geneva Conventions and warrantless wiretapping, there is little to celebrate in Gonzales' resignation."

President Bush named Solicitor Paul Clement to be the temporary Attorney General until a new attorney general is selected and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.



Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales



Gonzales approved torture methods like those used on detainees in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

KUWAIT TIMES (TOP); AP

news briefs



COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

NATION

Kids Write to Burger King

In August, Burger King Vice President Steven Grover received more than 100 letters from the elementary and middle school students at All Saints Catholic School in Sunrise, Florida. The letters demanded that Burger King pay the farmworkers a penny more per bucket of picked tomatoes. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, an organization of farmworkers in South Florida, says that increase would nearly double the farmworkers' poverty wages. "I think you should pay one penny more per pound for tomatoes so that they can provide for their families. It may not seem like a lot to you but it's a lot for other people," wrote Josh, age 9.

—AV

Mexican Activist Deported

Elvira Arellano, a Mexican citizen and immigration activist, was arrested and deported on August 19 while visiting Los Angeles. Last year she took sanctuary in the Adalberto United Methodist Church in Chicago to avoid arrest and deportation. She stayed there for several months, and her case was widely followed in the media. She says she



PSLWEB.ORG

should not have to choose between leaving her 8-year-old son, who is a U.S. citizen, and taking him to Mexico. —XT

Death Row Inmate's Life Spared

Kenneth Foster Jr. was scheduled to be executed in Texas for a crime the state of Texas admits he didn't commit or plan. The movement to save Foster won a victory on August 30, when six hours before the scheduled execution, the governor of Texas decided to change Foster's sentence to life in prison. A Texas law allows for the death penalty to be used against anybody involved in a crime where a murder occurred. Foster was driving a car when a passenger got out and killed someone. Now Foster's family and supporters are continuing to work to free him from prison. —XT

WORLD

Next Target: Iran?

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations agency that promotes and monitors safe nuclear technology, released a report on August 30 that says Iran is cooperating with inspectors and isn't producing large amounts of nuclear fuel. Yet *The Sunday Times* of London reported that the U.S. military has plans for three days of bombing 1,200 sites in Iran. President Bush has been threatening military attack against Iran saying Iran could create a "nuclear holocaust" in the Middle East. —AV

WHERE IN THE WORLD ~~ISN'T~~ THE U.S. MILITARY?

The United States military has more than 700 bases in 130 countries. That means that almost every country in the world has a U.S. military base on it even though there are no foreign military bases on U.S. soil. **On the map below, countries with *no* U.S. bases or troops are colored red.** All of those in white *do* have a U.S. military presence. The map also highlights a few of the places where the U.S. military has been involved in violent conflict. There are many others in the world — can you think of more places? —Compiled by Griffin Epstein



A huge U.S. military base in Kosovo called Camp Bondsteel, built after the bombing of Yugoslavia.

\$532,800,000,000!

In 2003, the United States was responsible for approximately 47 percent of the world's total military spending. The proposed military budget for the year 2007 was **\$532.8 billion** — more than \$300 billion more than the budget for Department of Education. Believe it or not, that doesn't even include money spent on the Iraq War, which is funded another way. A new study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates that the Iraq war will cost the United States nearly **\$2.3 trillion** by the year 2016. One trillion is one million million. Why does the United States spend so much money on the military?



Intervention

How does the United States military influence other countries? The military can send troops to fight on the ground, it can send airplanes to drop bombs or it can influence the way that governments are run (by sending money to political parties and producing and distributing media).

Military Industrial Complex

The United States military is officially controlled by a department of the United States government.

The military also works with private companies and corporations. Many of them are defense contractors — businesses or individuals that make weapons used by the army. The term "Military Industrial Complex" (coined in 1914, but used most famously

by former U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower) refers to the close ties that exist between private companies, commercial and political interests and the U.S. armed forces.

Have you ever seen a television commercial or a newspaper ad for the U.S. army? How do you think the military and businesses work together?



Important Terms

- **Military base:** A facility owned, operated and staffed by the military.
- **Colonization:** When a nation sends its citizens to another place to establish settlements and rule by force.
- **Military occupation:** When a military invades a country and establishes control and authority over it.



MAP LEGEND

□ Countries with U.S. military bases or troops. (2006)

■ Countries with no official U.S. military presence

WOUNDED KNEE, SOUTH DAKOTA

300 Lakota Sioux killed in 1890 as the U.S. colonized the West.



EL SALVADOR

Between 1980 and 1992, U.S. military gave \$6 billion in aid to the government in El Salvador. Up to 75,000 people died in a violent civil war.

PANAMA

The U.S. Military has left 100,000 unexploded bombs on and around former bases in Panama.



FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

The School of the Americas trains foreign military leaders. It has been accused of teaching torture methods, and graduates have been associated with death squads and human rights violations in other countries.



VENEZUELA

The United States supported an unsuccessful attempt in 2002 to remove democratically elected leader Hugo Chavez from power.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Democratically elected president Patrice Lumumba was assassinated on the order of then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1961.

AFGHANISTAN

The U.S. armed and trained Afghans in the 1980s, then in 2001 invaded the country.



VIETNAM

Between 1957 and 1975, the United States sent about three million troops to fight the North Vietnamese government using, among other things, chemical weapons. More than 58,000 U.S. troops and 900,000 North Vietnamese were killed.



IRAQ

After the Gulf War in 1991, the U.S. and the U.K. stopped trading food and medical supplies with Iraq. This deprivation killed more than two million people, one million of whom were children. In 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq, beginning the current Iraq War. Since then, more than 650,000 Iraqis and 3,770 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq.

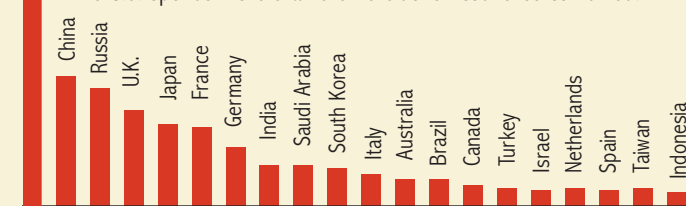


THE PHILIPPINES

Philippines resisted U.S. colonization in the Philippine-American war (1899-1902). About 1 million Filipinos were killed during the war and the resulting insurgency.

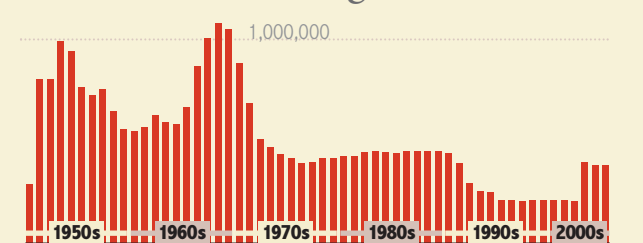
U.S. Military Spending Far Outweighs Other Countries

The U.S. spends more than the next dozen countries combined.



SOURCE: GLOBALISSUES.ORG

Number of U.S. Troops Stationed in Foreign Countries



SOURCE: TIM KANE

Math Quiz!

There are **80** military figures across the bottom of these two pages. Each one represents **31,250** real U.S. military workers all over the world. See if you can do the math and figure out the total number of people who work for the U.S. military. Get ready for a lot of zeros!

$$31,250 \times 80 =$$



science/culture briefs

Monkey Talk

Scientists studying rhesus monkeys on an island near Puerto Rico found that female monkeys use “monkey baby talk” when they are around other monkeys’ babies. Like human baby talk, this “motherese” language is more high-pitched and song-like than communication between monkey adults. The researchers think the female monkeys do this in order to get the babies’ attention and also to let other females know they want to admire and play with the baby. —MJ



An Out-of-Body Trick

A clever illusion helped researchers in London convince people that they had an out-of-body



experience. Using a setup of cameras and video goggles, they made people think they were seeing their own bodies from behind. Out-of-body experiences usually happen when someone is sick or in an

accident, so scientists are excited about how this news will affect theories in fields like neuroscience, psychology and religion. —MJ



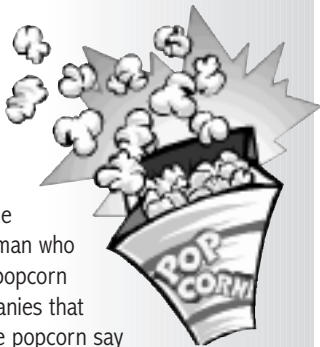
MONTY BRINTON/CBS

Controversial Kids TV Program

The new CBS TV program *Kid Nation* starts airing on September 19. Even before the series began, though, it was criticized for child abuse. For forty days CBS sent forty children, ages 8 to 15, to a deserted town in New Mexico where the kids had to live on their own with minimal help, in front of the cameras. The kids were taken out of school, worked with producers fourteen hours a day, and some were hurt in accidents. —AV

Dangerous Popcorn Chemical

The chemical diacetyl used in the buttery flavoring of some microwave popcorn has been linked to a serious and rare lung disease in factory workers who inhale the fumes. It was also linked to the disease in one man who ate microwave popcorn daily. The companies that make microwave popcorn say that their products are safe for consumers. But some companies are discussing removing the dangerous chemical from the popcorn in the future. —SS



By Katie Herbst

It was a fun, Potter-packed summer as both the fifth movie and the seventh book in the well-known series were

REVIEW released. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is the final novel in the beloved epic.

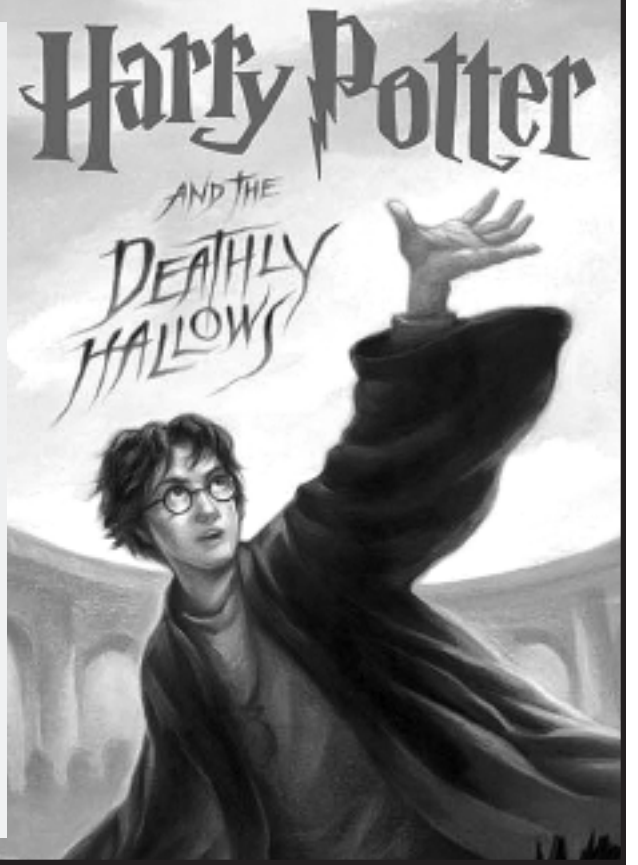
J.K. Rowling deserves credit for letting her readers down easy. She has some important characters die, but not enough to make us shed too many tears. She added an entertaining epilogue that hints at our favorite characters’ futures. She also increased the contrast between Harry and Ron, with Ron becoming more cheerful and fun-loving to help lighten this book, since it is the darkest of all seven.

The plot follows Harry and friends outside Hogwarts’ walls. Voldemort has virtually taken over the wizarding world, forcing Harry to choose between hiding from each and every person he meets, or fighting the nearly invincible demon face to face. It is survival not of the fittest, but the wisest, as we watch Harry’s hunt for horcruxes unfold.

A death is unavoidable in the battle, so the only question is: Who will perish, Harry or “you-know-who”? It’s the ultimate battle of good versus evil, and Rowling provides an unforgettable ending to it and to her acclaimed series of wizardry and bravery.

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Katie Herbst is a 10th grade student in Tennessee.



SCHOLASTIC INC.

Movie Magic? Not So Much This Time

The movie version of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the fifth in the series, was released this summer. Sadly, Rowling’s amazing

REVIEW work was chewed up on its way through Hollywood, and important parts of it were left out. In fact, the filmmakers twisted the contents of the book so much that it was nearly impossible



WARNER BROS.

to follow the plot, even for diehard Potter fans. The only way to understand this poorly constructed movie is by picking through snippets from the endless montages.

In this newest installment, Harry and his pals go through the worst year ever at Hogwarts. As the movie begins, Harry is thrust into a predictably bad situation with his cousin Dudley and uses magic to save the day. When the Ministry discovers this, Harry has to go on trial before them. But after this scene the movie almost comes to a halt as you meet the Order of the Phoenix and school begins.

At least new characters such as

Luna Lovegood and Dolores Umbridge are interesting. Umbridge is a Ministry representative who finds Hogwarts unsuitable and changes rules more frequently than her underwear. Her witlessness causes Harry and friends to form a Voldemort resistance group. Near the end, Harry puts his friends in danger when he tries to stop Voldemort from reaching a prophecy. But it turns out that Voldemort could never have gotten it anyway, so the gloomy ending could have been avoided completely.

Overall, the film was a waste of time, especially for Potter readers. If you must see this movie, save your money and rent it. —KH

Watch Out! Don’t Play Around With These Toys

By Xavier Tayo

Many popular toys have been recalled recently because they contain lead paint. You may have some of these toys. They include Thomas & Friends wooden train sets, Sarge figures from the movie *Cars* and Curious George spinning tops. More than 10 million lead-contaminated products have been recalled this year, according to data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Lead is a metal that was used in paints until the United States made it illegal in 1977. Lead is extremely toxic and can damage people’s organs and nervous systems, delay or prevent growth and reduce IQ.

Some other toys have small, powerful magnets that can come loose and be



swallowed by kids. If more than one magnet is swallowed, they can attract each other in the gut and cause holes that can become infected and cause death.

Mattel, the world’s largest toy company, is recalling many types of toys. Most

of the toys were made in China by companies that work with Mattel. Almost 80 percent of the toys now sold in the U.S. are from China because they cost very little to make to make there. To keep prices low the Chinese toy makers sometimes use low-quality or illegal materials. There are so many factories that China’s government has a hard time watching over them.

Nancy Nord, chairwoman of the CPSC, said, “There is no excuse for lead to be found in toys entering this country. It is totally unacceptable and it needs to stop.” But as long as people prefer cheap toys, problems like this will probably continue.

If you have any of these toys, tell your parents to call the CPSC at (800) 638-2772 so the toys can be exchanged.

STERIODS SCANDALS

HEROES — OR JUST CHEATERS?

By Dave Baker

When Barry Bonds hit his 756th home run this past summer he shattered baseball's biggest record. He has hit more home runs during his long career than anyone else ever has — but some people are claiming the record is dirty.

They say that Bonds used steroids (illegal drugs) years ago to help him hit more home runs, but he says that's not true.

Bonds has never tested positive for steroids, and his trainer, who was charged in court with supplying steroids to baseball players, says that Bonds never took the drugs and that he never gave them to Bonds.

The entire sport of baseball is in the

middle of a huge scandal. Investigators say they now have the names of dozens of professional players who have bought steroids.

That list of names has not been made public yet, but it is only a matter of time. Big-name baseball stars might be on the list of steroid users. *Sports Illustrated* magazine quoted a baseball source who said the list "is going to blow your mind." How would you feel if you found out your favorite player is a cheater?

Baseball is not the only sport in the news lately for steroids. The Tour de France bicycle race was hurt by steroid use this year, and that followed tests showing that last year's winner had also used steroids. Some professional golfers are now being accused of using

steroids, too.

Steroids have been around a long time, and athletes take a big chance by using them. If they get caught it would be very embarrassing, and they may get sent to jail. Steroids can also be dangerous to their health because the drugs are not monitored by the government.

So why do some athletes take steroids? Probably because winning at sports brings them more money and more popularity with fans. We look up to winning athletes as our heroes and role models.

Athletes are supposed to play fair and not use drugs to help them get ahead — yet some do. Is cheating the right choice? What do you think makes a real winner?



Barry Bonds holds the record for most career home runs.

EUGENE CHAN

Brewing up Help for Coffee Growers

By Mallory Jensen

Coffee is the most commonly traded product in the world after oil, but most coffee beans aren't grown on big plantations. Instead, individual families grow most of the world's coffee on small plots of land. There are 100 million people worldwide who do this. But although more than 1.4 billion cups of coffee are poured each day, coffee farmers earn very little.

Programs like Fair Trade help coffee growers get better prices for the beans, but not enough to pull them out of poverty. Coffee Kids is a non-profit organization that works with local groups to help coffee farmers in Mexico and Central America improve their lives.

Families learn how to start small, non-coffee businesses so they do not depend so much on one thing. Small loans allow communities to build things like water treatment plants. Savings banks are established so people will have more resources in the future. In Ixcapantla, Mexico, some children have formed their own savings groups in a project partly coordinated by Coffee Kids.

Coffee Kids programs also help farmers' children go to school instead of picking coffee beans. In Costa Rica, scholarships help rural students study beyond elementary



COFFEE KIDS

Above, The directors of a group called Children Thinking of the Future record weekly deposits. Below, the Board of Directors of Grupo Niños del Cafe in Ixcapantla, Mexico: Maria Azucena Avelino Pino, Diego de Aquino Gonzales and Guadalupe Gonzales Flores.



school. Thirteen-year-old Joanna Salas used her first scholarship to buy eyeglasses, and her second will buy school supplies. "When I was younger, I wanted to be a secretary, but now I want to be an obstetrician and help women and children," Salas says.

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For more information, go to www.coffeekids.org.

COFFEE FACTS!

- ❖ The global coffee industry makes \$60 billion annually. Coffee farmers earn as little as 4 cents a pound for the coffee they pick by hand.
- ❖ 25 million families around the world work in the coffee fields and depend on the coffee crop as their only source of income.
- ❖ One coffee tree yields slightly less than one pound of coffee per year.
- ❖ For every pound of gourmet coffee sold, smaller coffee farmers receive between 12 and 25 cents.



SOURCE: COFFEEKIDS.ORG

Khalil Gibran School Shake-Up

By Sheba Sethi

This fall, the Khalil Gibran International Academy public school opened in Brooklyn, New York. The school welcomed over sixty sixth graders and will eventually hold grades 6-12. The school has a focus on the study of Arabic language and culture. It is named after a famous Lebanese poet who promoted peace.

This summer, the school's principal, Dhabah "Debbie" Almontasar, resigned after months of attacks that tried to prevent the school from opening. Opponents claim the school will promote radical Islam.

Almontasar speaks fluent Arabic and is an experienced teacher who helped establish the school. In an interview, Almontasar defended the Arabic word *intifada* by saying that it translates as "shaking off," but in the United States it is often associated with the Palestinian uprising against Israel. Almontasar apologized, but she was still strongly criticized and eventually resigned. Her replacement, Debbie Salzberg, does not speak Arabic.

Some people feel that Almontasar should not have made a statement about the word. Others think she was unfairly attacked by people who oppose an Arabic dual-language school and who just wanted an excuse to criticize it. They think she was right to explain the word, instead of letting it be defined by stereotypes. A statement by the women youth organizers at Arab Women Active in the Arts and Media says, "The media is taking an Arabic word and using it to create confusion and distrust targeted at Arab and Muslim people."



Who Am I?



1. I am considered by many people to be one of the greatest jazz drummers of all time. I worked with many famous jazz musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis and Duke Ellington.
2. I was an advocate for the liberation of black people in the United States and in Africa.
3. I once said, "I will never again play anything that does not have social significance. We American jazz musicians of African descent have proved beyond all doubt that we are master musicians of our instruments. Now what we have to do is employ our skill to tell the dramatic story of our people and what we've been through."
4. I died on August 16, 2007, at the age of 83.

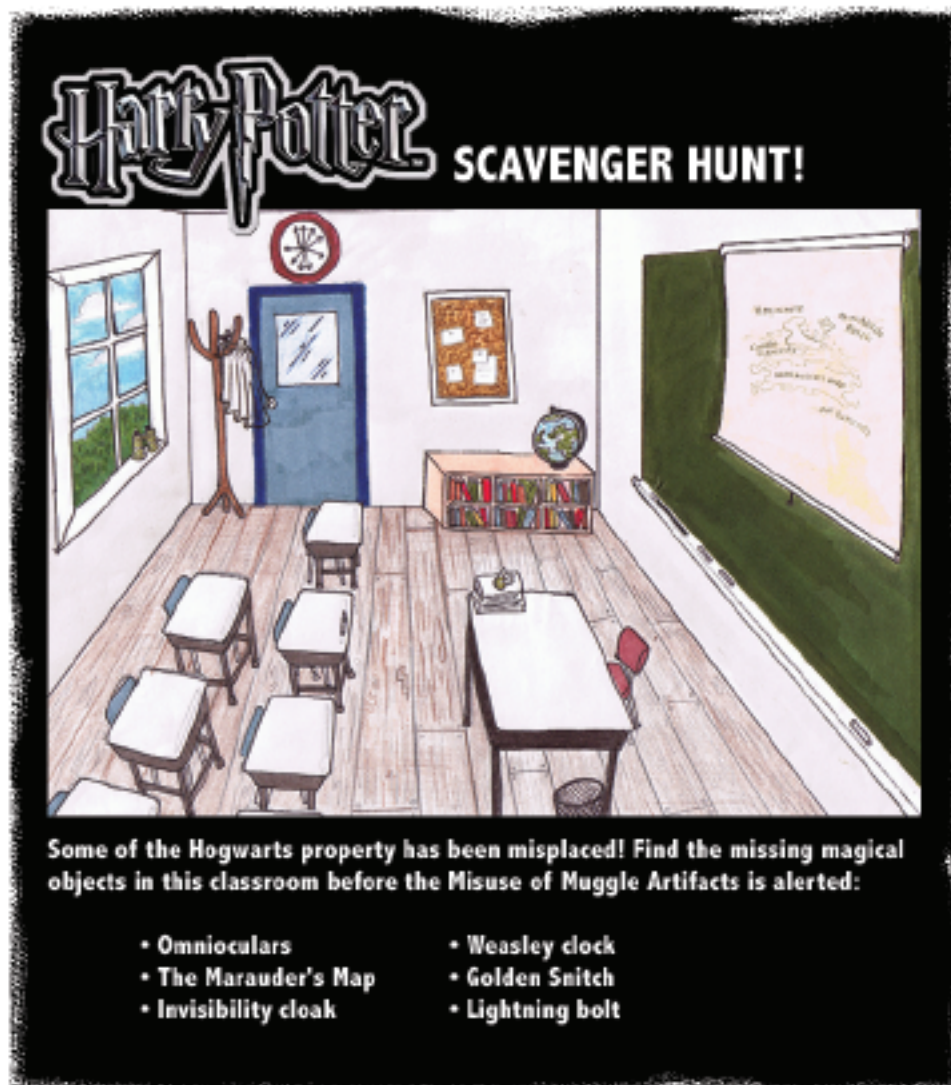
—AV

Answer: Max Roach

INDYKIDS



GARY MARTIN



—LEAH ORTANEZ

kids' recipe



Zucchini 'Pasta' Ribbons With Cheese

INGREDIENTS

- ❖ 2 large zucchini or yellow summer squashes
- ❖ 12 cups water
- ❖ 1 tablespoon salt
- ❖ 12 oz. jar of marinated artichoke hearts
- ❖ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ❖ 1½ cups grated Parmesan cheese

EQUIPMENT

- ❖ big bowl
- ❖ vegetable peeler
- ❖ stock pot
- ❖ slotted spoon
- ❖ colander or strainer
- ❖ whisk

- 1 Peel the brightly colored outside of the zucchini or squash and throw that part away.
- 2 Keep peeling the zucchini from the very top to the bottom, but put the long ribbons into a bowl. Peel all around the zucchini until you reach the seeds. When you get to the seeds on the first zucchini, do the same thing with the second.
- 3 Add the water and salt to the pot and bring to a boil.
- 4 Put half the zucchini ribbons in the boiling water for 4 minutes.
- 5 Take the ribbons out with the slotted spoon and put them into the colander to drain.
- 6 Repeat steps 4 and 5 with the rest of the ribbons.
- 7 Put all the ribbons in a big bowl. Pour the marinated artichoke hearts, olive oil, and 1 cup of the cheese on top and stir.
- 8 Serve onto 4 plates using the slotted spoon, topping each plate with some of the remaining cheese. —MJ

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